



Barney Field has been driving a taxi for several years. He enjoys his work because it gives him a chance to meet a lot of interesting people. Last week, for example, he met a famous movie star at the airport. It was Ula Hackey, Barney's favorite actress. He recognized her as soon as she got in the taxi.

"Please take me to the Plaza Hotel," she said. "And don't waste any time."

"Yes, ma'am," said Barney. He turned around and smiled at her. "Aren't you Miss Ula Hackey, the famous actress?"

"That's right," she said. "I suppose you've seen me in the movies."

"I sure have," said Barney. "I've seen all of your pictures. I'm a real fan of yours."

Barney started telling Miss Hackey how much he enjoyed her pictures. He thought she was the best actress in the world. Miss Hackey was very flattered. She enjoyed listening to Barney and thought he was very pleasant.

"You're quite a guy," she said. "What's your name?"

"Barney Field. At your service."

"You know, Barney," she went on, "you're different from most people I meet. Almost everyone is afraid to talk to me because I'm a big star. But it doesn't seem to bother you at all."

"Well, I am a little nervous," said Barney. "But in my work I meet all kinds of people, and I enjoy talking."

"Don't stop now," said Miss Hackey. "Tell me about yourself. You seem like a very interesting person."

Barney was overjoyed. He loved talking about himself and made the most of his opportunity. He started telling Miss Hackey about his experiences as a taxi driver. His favorite story was about a man who didn't have any money and tried to pay his fare with cigars.

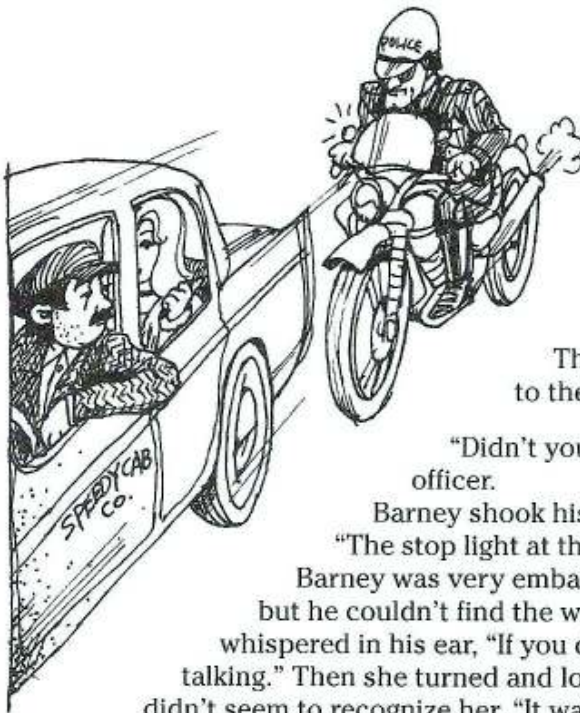


Miss Hackey just sat back and listened. It was fascinating. After a while she leaned forward and said, "Barney, you enjoy telling stories, don't you?"

"Yes, ma'am. I've been telling stories ever since I was a little boy."

"Well, I hope you've got a good one for the police officer right behind us."

Barney looked out the window and saw a police officer on a motorcycle. The officer signaled for Barney to pull over to the side of the road.



"Didn't you see the light back there?" asked the officer.

Barney shook his head. "What light, officer?"

"The stop light at the intersection. You went right through it."

Barney was very embarrassed. He started to say something, but he couldn't find the words. Miss Hackey leaned forward and whispered in his ear, "If you don't mind, Barney, I'll do the talking." Then she turned and looked at the officer, who didn't seem to recognize her. "It wasn't the driver's fault," she said. "He wasn't responsible. You see . . ."

"Of course it was his fault," interrupted the officer. "He was doing the driving! I'm going to have to give you a ticket," he said to Barney. The police officer wrote out the ticket, handed it to the driver, and rode away on his motorcycle. Barney looked very unhappy.



“Cheer up,” said Miss Hackey. “I’ll pay the ticket for you.”

“Oh, that’s very generous of you,” said Barney. “But I can’t accept. After all, I was doing the driving.”

“Well, maybe you can accept another offer.”

“What’s that?” said Barney.

“I’ve just started making a new movie,” said Miss Hackey. “We’re looking for someone who can play the part of a taxi driver. Would you like to do it?”

“Of course!” said Barney. He felt better already. “I’ve always wanted to be in the movies. Now’s my chance.”



STORY QUESTIONS

1. How did Barney meet Ula Hackey?
2. Why was he so happy to meet her?
3. What did Ula Hackey think of Barney?
4. How was he different from most people she met?
5. What was Barney’s favorite story about?
6. Why did the police officer stop Barney?
7. Why do you think Barney didn’t see the stop light?
8. Did the police officer give Barney a ticket or just a friendly warning?
9. How did Miss Hackey try to help Barney?
10. Why didn’t Barney accept?
11. What was Miss Hackey’s second offer?
12. What was Barney’s reaction?
13. Do you think this was a good day or a bad day for Barney? Why?

READER’S THEATER • Three students play the parts of Barney, Ula Hackey, and the police officer. A fourth student is the narrator. Read dramatically from the story.

PRACTICE 1 • Change the sentences using gerunds.

It’s dangerous to drive fast.

Driving fast is dangerous.

It’s stupid to waste time.

Wasting time is stupid.

1. It’s expensive to eat out.
2. It’s difficult to save money.
3. It’s economical to take the bus.
4. It’s important to help others.
5. It’s wonderful to make new friends.
6. It’s fantastic to be in love.
7. It’s difficult to be a good loser.
8. It’s easy to ride a bicycle.
9. It’s fun to dance.

PRACTICE 2 • Complete the sentences with appropriate adjectives. There can be more than one appropriate adjective for each sentence.

Saving money is **smart**.

OR Saving money is **difficult**.

1. Finding a good job is . . .
2. Working for free is . . .
3. Planning for the future is . . .
4. Doing the same thing every day is . . .
5. Listening to music is . . .
6. Learning English is . . .
7. Calling long distance is . . .
8. Driving a small car is . . .
9. Walking the streets at night is . . .

WRITTEN EXERCISE • Complete the sentences using gerunds.

He enjoys listening to the radio.

We've finished painting the apartment.

1. She likes _____
2. They've started _____
3. He can't stand _____
4. I don't mind _____
5. We've stopped _____
6. You don't like _____
7. She avoids _____

PAIR WORK • Have conversations similar to the examples. Student B uses **so** or **neither** to show agreement with Student A.

A: I'm going to study tonight.

B: **So am I.**

A: I haven't done my homework yet.

B: **Neither have I.**

1. A: I'd like a cup of coffee.

B: _____.

2. A: I don't watch TV very much.

B: _____.

3. A: I went shopping yesterday.

B: _____.

4. A: I'm tired.

B: _____.

5. A: I couldn't sleep last night.

B: _____.

6. A: I won't be here Saturday.

B: _____.

7. A: I have a lot of things to do.

B: _____.

8. A: I've always been very busy.

B: _____.

9. A: I'm never bored.

B: _____.

GROUP WORK • Tell how you feel about these activities. Find out what you have in common with the others.

get up early	do homework	shop	cook
take the bus	listen to rock music	write letters	wash the dishes
come to class	watch TV news	talk about politics	do housework

A: **I enjoy cooking.**

B: **So do I. I think it's fun.**

C: **Not me. I hate cooking.**
What about you?

D: **I don't mind cooking.**

Use these expressions:

I enjoy/hate/don't mind . . . -ing.
So do I./Neither do I.
Me too./Not me.

PAIR WORK • Ask and answer questions about the pictures.



1. Suzi

A: What has Suzi been doing?

B: She's been picking flowers.



2. Otis and Gloria

A: What have Otis and Gloria been doing?

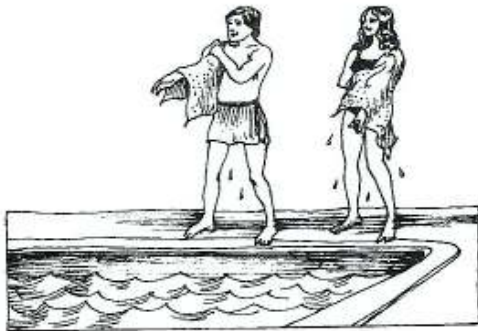
B: They've been riding bicycles.



3. Barbara and Tino



4. Nick



5. Peter and Maria



6. Linda



7. Fred



8. Cathy and Danny